

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2016
WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL
400 PHENIX AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI 02920
EXECUTIVE SESSION –6:00 P.M.
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING - PUBLIC SESSION**

MINUTES

The School Committee meeting was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Chairperson Ruggieri, Mrs. Culhane; Mr. Colford; Mr. Fusco, Mr. Gale, Mr. Traficante and Mr. Wall. Attorney Cascione was present during Executive Session.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. **It was moved by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Fusco to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws. The roll was called; all were in favor: Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes.**

PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel:

PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation:

- a. Custodians
- b. Teachers
- c. Teacher Assistants
- d. Bus Aides
- e. Technical Assistants

PL 42-46-5(3)

- a. District Safety Plan

Adjourn Executive Session

Call to Order - Public Session at 6:59 p.m.

The roll was called; a Quorum was present

Executive Session Minutes were sealed – Mrs. Ruggieri stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session and that all personnel listed above were notified. **A motion was made to seal the minutes of the executive session by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. The roll was called; all were in favor: Mr. Colford – Yes; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes**

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of Previous Meetings - September 14, 2016 (Work Session) and September 19, 2016 (Regular Meeting) and October 5, 2016 (Work Session) by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements/Communications - None

Chairperson's Communications - None

Superintendent's Communications

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated – Good evening. We have several retirements and resignations on the agenda this evening. I would like to point out a few people. Lois Fagnant, who has worked for the District for 45 years is retiring. She is currently employed here at Western Hills Middle School. It is a huge loss for this school. Lois has survived many principals, administrations, students, parents, Superintendents and basically knows the ins and outs of the district and this school. We wish her well. In addition, Jayne McDonald is leaving Transportation after 10 years. Mrs. DeRiso, who is coming up shortly is moving on to another position in another district. We wish her well and thank her for her years of service as a reading consultant and most recently in Central Office. Thank you.

School Committee Member Communications

Mr. Fusco stated – I just wanted to take a minute to congratulate the Cranston East Thunderbolt and Emerald Encore for a fantastic performance this weekend. They hosted the Thunderbolt invitational at the Cranston Stadium. I just wanted to give a shout out to Greg Arsenault, the director of the band; Roxanne Gustafson, who is the director of the Emerald Encore. I would like to thank the Cranston East Band Alumni Association for all their donations. I would like to thank all the band parents, volunteers, including Mrs. Culhane. A special thanks to the chair and co-chairs of this event, which was Lori Busman and Shelly Fusco. It was an awesome event and when Mr. Arsenault finished meeting with the judges, they once again said how great of an event it was and look forward to coming to Cranston every year. Congratulations.

Mrs. Culhane – I would like to echo Mr. Fusco's comments. Everybody did a wonderful job, staff and volunteers as well. The students were amazing. In looking at the bands, our situation is not unique where our numbers have decreased over the years. There is something definitely needs to be said about the fact that making music education important and a priority is something that everyone needs to be doing. Fortunately, we have been able to do it the last few years and bringing those programs back. Hopefully we will see the band grow.

Mr. Gale stated. I have two things I would like to comment on. First, I was fortunate enough to go to Edgewood Highlands last week with the Superintendent and the General Treasurer to look at the HVAC system that was put in. The system was very interesting. We received a grant from Rhode Island Infrastructure bank and with that, they put in the new system which has the ability to sense when the body heat rises in the room and turns the air conditioning on. It is automated and will save a lot of money and we were the first school in the state to get this system. It was great to see. I would like to thank the General Treasurer for his support. The second thing I would like to talk about is the first CEAB meeting is tomorrow night. CEAB is the Cranston Educational Advisory Board. We will be meeting tomorrow night, also with the Superintendent. Mr. McCarthy has done a great job getting everyone motivated and getting the officers positions filled. We will be moving ahead and that meeting is tomorrow night at Cranston West at 6:00 p.m. I would like to ask everyone in the audience and on the Committee to the meeting. There will be a delicious dinner that will be served and we will be talking about what we want to do for the next year. Thank you.

Public Hearing

- Students (Agenda/Non-Agenda Matters) – None
- Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)
 - o Susan DeRiso – 9 Henry Drive, Barrington, RI – Spoke on her resignation

Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted under the Consent Agenda:

16-10-01; 16-10-02; 16-10-03; 16-10-04; 16-10-05 (w/addendum); 16-10-06; 16-10-07; 16-10-08 (w/addendum); 16-10-09 (w/addendum); 16-10-11; 16-10-13

A motion was made to approve by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Colford. The roll was called; all were in favor.

Action Calendar/Action Agenda

RESOLUTIONS

PERSONNEL

Resolution No. 16-10-01 RESOLVED, that the School Committee hereby approves the ongoing efforts and fundraising of the Girard Family for the rebuilding of the “Jeffrey S. Girard II Memorial Therapeutic Playground” located at the Garden City Elementary School.

Resolution No. 16-10-02 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent the following certified personnel be appointed for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year:

Natalie Tarr, Step 2 + Masters
Education...Brown University, BA, MAT
Experience...Warwick School Department
Certification....Secondary Chemistry
Assignment... Cranston West .6 FTE
Effective date...October 24, 2016
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12612330 51110

Resolution No. 16-10-03 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Yasmin Pena, Elementary\ESL1-6
Marilyn Hudson-Tremayne, Middle School English\Special Ed

Resolution No. 16-10-04 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Susan DeRiso, Director of Literacy
Central Administration
Effective...November 11, 2016

Resolution No. 16-10-05 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual(s) be appointed as an athletic coach:

Philip Nunez, Head Coach Soccer

Bain
Class-D
Step-1
Playing Competition-High School & Club
Experience-CLCF
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid

Please add the following to Resolution No. 16-10-05:

Evan Lancia, Assistant Coach Boys' Basketball
Cranston West
Class D
Step-3
Playing Competition-High School
Experience-Bain Middle School
Certification-RI Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid

Resolution No. 16-10-06 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coach (es) be accepted:

Derek Mott, Head Coach Wrestling
Bain/Park View
Effective date...September 27, 2016

Resolution No. 16-10-07 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be appointed as volunteer coaches:

Cranston High School West
Sean Gormley Boys' Soccer

Cranston High School East
Michael Faria Boys' Soccer

Resolution No. 16-10-08 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employee(s) be appointed:

Vickie Hill, Behavior Tech
Stone Hill
Effective date...October 4, 2016
New
Fiscal Note... 11746117 51110

Keela Gomes, Teacher Assistant
Cranston Transitional Program
Effective date...October 10, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note... 14046020 51110

Ramona Giorgio, Teacher Assistant
Western Hills
Effective date...October 4, 2016

Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12946020 51110

Annette Folco, Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective date...September 20, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12945190 51110

Michelle Jarbeau, 3hr Teacher Assistant
Rhodes
Effective date...September 14, 2016
New
Fiscal Note... 11746010 51110

Elizabeth Apici, Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective date...September 19, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12645190 51110

Marie Mills, Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective date...October 7, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note... 12845192 51110

Please add the following to Resolution No. 16-10-09:

Timothy Dillon, Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective date...October 10, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note...12845192 51110

Stephanie Given, Teacher Assistant
Gladstone
Effective date...October 17, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note...11946010 51110

Benjamin Standridge, Bus Drive
Transportation
Effective date...October 17, 2016
Replacement
Fiscal Note...12845192 51110

Resolution No. 16-10-09 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Michael Macari, Custodian

Laurie Spagnolo, Teacher Assistant
Amanda Paniccia, Teacher Assistant

Please add the following to Resolution No. 16-10-09:

Peter Gerardi, Bus Drive

Resolution No. 16-10-10 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Jayne McDonald, Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective Date...October 10, 2016

Lois Fagnant, Secretary
Western Hills
Effective Date...December 2, 2016

Resolution No. 16-10-11 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Pasquale Sirabella, Jr., Custodian
Plant
Effective Date...October 4, 2016

Michael Morales, Custodian
Plant
Effective Date...September 26, 2016

Laura Barlow, Behavior Tech
Peters
Effective Date....October 11, 2016

Marie Mills, Bus Aide
Transportation
Effective Date...October 6, 2016

POLICY and PROGRAM

Resolution No. 16-10-12 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the PBGR Handbook for 2016-2017 be approved by the School Committee. **(The 2016-2017 PBGR Handbook is located on www.cpsed.net and on file in the Superintendent's Office)**

A motion was made to approve Resolution No. 16-10-12 by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Wall. Discussion followed:

Mr. Wall stated – Some of you can probably guess what I am going to discuss. Let me begin by saying that I agree with 99.99% of what is contained in the PBGR handbook. I commend the work of the members of the PBGR Committee in putting together this handbook. However, I am in disagreement with requirement no. 5 that is contained on page 7 of this document. On that page it

states that “students must participate in Rhode Island State assessments like the PARCC and the NECAP”. When I was reading these requirements I asked myself if I would personally be prepared to withhold a diploma from a student if any one of these requirements were not met. With requirements 1-4, I answered in the affirmative. Yes I would be prepared to withhold the diploma if a student had not successfully completed their course work, comprehensive course assessment, graduation portfolio and presentation, community service requirements. When I turned my attention to item no. 5, I have to be honest, philosophically I can’t in good conscience say that I would be in favor of withholding any student’s diploma if they had decided not to take the PARCC test. My belief is that standardized tests already take up too much time, energy and resources. Although I commend the work of the committee that put together the PBGR handbook. I oppose what I believe is perpetuating their disproportionate significance. For that reason, I will be voting no on this resolution.

The roll was called: Mr. Colford – No; Mrs. Culhane – Yes; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – No.

Resolution No. 16-10-13 RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conferences/Field Trips of Long Duration be authorized:

Field Trip of Long Duration for Cranston High School Students that will be traveling to Italy from April 13, 2017 – April 22, 2017. The Supervising teachers will be Daniel Shields, Italian teacher and Sandra Tessier, Spanish Teacher. There will be eighteen students along with four chaperones. Educational Tours is the travel agency making the arrangements. The cost is \$3,325.00 for students and \$3690.00 for adults. Students and chaperones will be responsible for the cost of the trip. The students will be given ample opportunity to raise monies for the trip through a variety of fund raising activities. The tour company offers on-line payment options.

Public Hearing on Non-Agenda Items - No

Announcement of Future Meeting(s) – November 9, 2016 and November 14, 2016

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mrs. Culhane. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie A. G. Culhane
Vice Chairperson